

The Role of OEO's Parent Advisory Council

The importance of Family Involvement in children's education is increasingly evident in a growing research base, new educational policies, and reform movements. Part of OEO's work is to develop strategies to ensure that family involvement, which requires a vision, policy and framework, becomes a legitimate element of public education in our state. OEO's Parent Advisory Council (PAC) advises us and assists us with this work.

The PAC consists of parents, guardians, and caretakers of children enrolled in Washington State's K-12 public schools. Their responsibilities include:

- Communicating with and getting feedback from other parents to help inform the work of OEO.
- Making geographically, economically, and culturally relevant suggestions about how schools could better involve parents in education.
- Helping OEO to increase awareness and understanding around the State of Washington of the importance and the benefits of school-family partnerships.
- Providing feedback and input on legislation and policies pertaining to OEO's work.
- Working collaboratively with each other and with OEO staff and community partners.
- Expressing views and opinions openly, constructively, and respectfully.
- Understanding the work of the Office of the Education Ombudsman and promoting its work in their schools and communities.

Members commit to a one year term that can be renewed annually. They attend five to six meetings on the weekend during the school year and must also be available by phone or email.

The members of the Parent Advisory Committee are:

Janet Anderson
Jenny Cochrane
Joel Domingo
Novella Fraser
Maria Garcia
Ramona Hattendorf
Tammy Howard
Peggy Johnson
Annette King
Debbie Lester
Lauren McGuire
Iris Okimoto Nielsen
Jill Pettersen
Sandra Rollins
Efrem Seyoum
Farah Syed
Danielle Tovar
Alison Wald

Upcoming OEO Parent Advisory Council meetings:

Oct. 29, Dec. 3, Jan. 28, Mar. 24, and May 19 from 9:30 am to 12 noon at the OEO office.